

Social Forms and Entertainments



A Steamer Experience Party.
The description of this novel party will be in time to assist many of you who want to give welcomes home to many of your friends who have fared abroad this summer. Ocean travel and trips on the great lakes clear through to Buffalo have been very popular, as there have been some palatial steamers put on this year which have given voyagers a sense of security on our treacherous inland seas.

With all this in mind the hostess asked eight friends, every one of whom had taken a "steamer" vacation. Two of them having made the old-fashioned "befo' de war" trip from St. Louis to New Orleans on "the river." The guests were asked to give only fifteen-minute descriptions of what was to them the most interesting or exciting part of their trip, and thus you see two hours of the afternoon "from three to six" was beautifully filled. While one person "talked," the others had their needlework.

The affair was held on the porch and there were as many steamer chairs as the hostess could borrow. After all had arrived, the twelve-year-old boy of the household dressed as a ship's steward, served hot beef tea and "pilot biscuit," and during the afternoon the time was sounded by bells. Books of travel, guide books and literature so abundantly furnished by steamship lines was scattered about, and there were many souvenir postals with a desk equipped for writing should anyone wish to send a last message back by the pilot, who came in dressed as a sailor (a dear little chap in middy suit with "First Pilot" on his capband).

After each one had had her turn with no interruptions of mal de mer, delicious refreshments were served, and everyone agreed that it had been a most delightful afternoon, as it had given good friends the opportunity of meeting and hearing each other's experiences just when they were fresh in the mind, and all were so enthusiastic. Lists of books to read were exchanged and plans begun for "next" year's vacation and the next "steamer experience" party, which was voted should be an annual affair.

A Corn Roast.
Our amusements are greatly governed by the season of the year, and right now the popular thing is a "corn roast." Of course they are not new, but there is something decidedly alluring in a moonlight night, a big bonfire, just the right crowd, and plenty of nice, sweet roasting ears, not forgetting sweet potatoes, bacon, coffee and the delicious sandwiches the girls know how to make.

Even the effete east is having corn roasts with the smartest of the smart set as host and hostess. Motor cars are often discarded and hayracks with four horses call for the guests. If a colored man who knows "just how" is available, he may be called upon to superintend the broiling of the bacon, roasting the potatoes, corn, and making the coffee; if not, the men of the party will be found quite capable. Banjos, guitars and the cushions from the wagon add to the enjoyment after the repast, then the affair usually winds up with an informal dance at the home of the hostess. These are delightfully informal affairs. Here is a list of sandwiches that the girls tell me are especially nice for such occasions. I cannot give the rules, but I am sure you all will know how to go about making them just from the names. They

should be wrapped separately in waxed paper:
Stuffed olive and egg sandwich.
Olive and English walnut sandwich.
Pimento cheese sandwich. The pimento cheese comes in jars already prepared for use.
Sardine sandwich, made with mayonnaise dressing.
Minced ham and chicken sandwich.
Take a goodly supply of paper napkins and drinking cups.

A Peach Luncheon.
A peach luncheon will be reasonable as long as peaches are ripe and the weather favorable, for the invitations say "luncheon served on the lawn." But the hostess has provided the decorations of the house so as to give an outdoor effect as much as possible should the day prove inclement. If the day is fine a round table spread with white is to set under a canopy made of awning material, supported at the four corners by stakes driven firmly into the ground. Rows of Chinese lanterns will decorate this outdoor dining room. The table centerpiece is to be a pink enameled basket laden with peaches, leaves and vines. For place cards there will be cardboard peaches done in water color with a green leaf or two. Here is the menu, which is unusually dainty:

Tomato and caviar canapes, jellied veal or tongue with potato croquettes, olives, shrimp in aspic with a mayonnaise dressing, cheese wafers. A delicious peach omelet comes next served with brandied peaches. The dessert is to be peach ice cream in shape of the real fruit, the leaves being made of pistachio ice cream. They will be placed on plates covered with peach brandy. If desired tiny liquor glasses may be filled with peach brandy. The hostess is to wear a pink gown with a stock and belt of yellow. This is a very good combination providing just the right shades are selected.

A Bonnet Party.
Now do not say that bonnet parties are old, until you hear about this one, which was given for twenty children. When all had arrived the hostess passed three sheets of colored tissue paper, some squares of crepe paper of gay color, and two fancy paper napkins to each child. On a center table she puts pins, scissors, tubes of paste and little towels and a bowl of water for wiping the paste off of finger-tips. She said a half-hour would be allowed for making any kind of a hat, cap or bonnet, the maker to don the headgear and when time was called they were to form in line and pass before the judges, who would award the prizes.

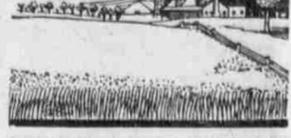
Such a busy time as those children had; they were really most clever, too, in building their hats. The oldest guest was eleven and the youngest eight and some of the work was excellent. The prizes were doll boxes containing lovely hats for dolly and the ice cream was served in the dearest straw hats (doll size) lined with waxed paper. The children enjoyed the novelty and each one went home with her creation on her head. It is needless to say that there were no boys at this party. The young hostess declared that boys from nine to twelve were "no fun." I do not know what our boy friends will say to this; perhaps some of them will mend their ways a bit, so as not to be left out of parties.

MME MERRI.

Smart Blouses.
The satin blouse is still very smart, especially in white, and buttoned in the front with large bell shaped buttons in satin or ivory, and either very apparent buttonholes or else thick satin loops. A little embroidered pocket breaks the simplicity of the corsage on one side, and the little silk handkerchief placed there gives a pretty touch of color.

Lace and embroidered blouses will be always pretty. Fine allover Valenciennes lace, which does not crush and which gives such filmy effects, makes exquisite blouses, mingled with Irish lace, dotted net, etc. A narrow satin collar makes a pretty finish. A delightful chemisette of India lawn was seen in one of the big lingerie houses. It was embroidered with dots in high relief, after the fashion.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM by William Pitt



Feed your soil.
Always use a pure-bred ram.
Sheep are beneficial to the land.
Never allow the milk to sour in the swill barrel.

Give the colts attention. It will not do to neglect them.

For the fence-flying habit, trim one wing. It is a painless cure.

Churning should be done on time. Better put off something else.

If you want to keep eggs for any length of time turn them over every day.

First grow bone and muscle, then put the fat on. Corn is splendid for fattening.

A feed of something while milking will often make a stubborn cow let down her milk.

The working hours of the poultryman extend from early till late; there are no holidays.

The Babcock test for a cow's production is often an acid test of her owner's gumption.

Try raising the farm horses instead of buying them. It is the safe and profitable way.

Don't expect every chick hatched from those high-priced eggs you bought to be prize-winners.

The chilled or wet chick gets a setback from which it will not soon recover—sometimes never.

With pastures burned up the man with silage left over from last winter is now finding good use for it.

Even in rush time it pays to take a half day off every week to keep the machinery in good working order.

Chicks that have been drowned in water tanks that someone forgot to empty would make a good-sized flock.

Old pastures are sure to have internal parasites and this is one reason why frequent changes should be made.

The sooner the calf can be grown up to cow or steer size the more profit there is in the business of raising cattle.

The better way to raise chicks is to keep them in a yard enclosed with poultry netting until they are well feathered out.

Save the soil moisture by working early in the spring and keep this idea of saving the moisture clearly before you all the time.

The feed for maintenance may be the same for a cow that returns 500 pounds of butter fat per year as for one that returns 100 pounds.

Hens will eat a great quantity of coal cinders, and they are very good for them. Try putting a load in the chicken yard and watch the result.

Throw the milk strainer in the scrap heap. The cloth strainer over the pail is the only thing. Dirt kept out will not have to be strained out.

Where the cows run in rough brush and pasture there will be cuts and scratches on udder and teats. Keep a bottle of vaseline handy at milking time.

Keep close watch of the potatoes. Do not allow the bugs to get settled in their destructive work, but prevent it by spraying in season or other methods.

The breed isn't all and the feed isn't all. If you are on the right track with both and there will be no disappointment in the dairy business for you.

The planting of a few shrubs as spirea, lilac, mock orange, highbush or cranberry about the edges of the lawn or in groups, often adds to the value of the homestead.

Health is natural and disease unnatural. In the fight between the two nature will usually come out victorious if we give her a little encouragement in the way of humane treatment and sanitary surroundings.

The American Pigeon Keeper says: Though we have handled hundreds of birds we find it impossible to distinguish the sexes except when about three weeks old; then the female is generally smaller, and the legs and feet of the male bird are larger than those of the female.

Purchase a separator.
Butter must be kept cool.
Mulching potatoes is excellent.
Change the sheep pasture often.
A dog which worries stock is dead as a gift.
Powdered charcoal mixed with soft feed aids digestion.

Be sure the salt box in the sheep quarters is kept filled.

The floorless coop on drained ground is the only kind for this season.

Courage based upon knowledge is the farmer's most valuable asset.

Confidence and contentment are two important factors in poultry culture.

The first calf should be dropped when the heifer is about two years old.

Generally the more condensed and finished the products the more the profit.

If vermin bother the setting hen, try a few moth balls in the nesting material.

An even and proper temperature of the cream gives texture and solidity to the butter.

Poultry likes fresh straw now and then just as well as the cow likes to be well bedded.

Dairying does not bring its best returns until it is made a business instead of a chore.

An abundance of sunlight is a great help in keeping poultry houses clean and fowls healthy.

The ambition to become rich and own vast acres has kept many men poor all their lives.

A good way to tell ripe melons is by the fragrant odor. They also part easily from the stem.

Taking care of the tools and implements is one of the best modes of economizing on the farm.

Success lies not in the number of cows a man keeps, but rather in the kind of cow that he keeps.

Money and position without happiness are like a table loaded with good things and no appetite to eat.

Keep a good amount of absorbents in the yards where pigs are kept and have a dry, clean place to feed in.

Furnish salt regularly for all of the animals and see there is always plenty of clean, good water for them.

Drop everything to help a horse or a cow that is in trouble, no matter whether it is your own or your neighbor's.

Guinea fowls are the most persistent bug eaters of all the poultry tribe. And they are good eating too—the guineas.

Many times steel or other metal covers get small leak holes, which might be repaired and the roof last several years yet.

The horse that has a long stride has a low down knee and he moves with more ease and rapidly than the one with a high knee.

Some one man in the neighborhood could make a business of spraying and securing enough work to keep him busy a large part of the year.

When milk sours before all the cream has had a chance to rise, not only will the butter be poor in quality but some of the cream will be lost.

The woman who sorts eggs and grades and packs them carefully for market is always well paid for her work in the increased price they bring.

The small farm pays better in proportion to its size than the large farm, because of its compactness, less fencing and drainage and more economy of labor.

Among the cows that pays a profit and it is a mistake to make a good production pay the cost of keeping a bad one.

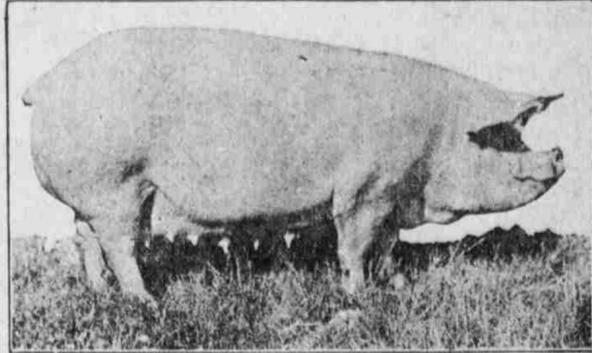
The foundation of all poultry farms is egg production. There is too much risk in buying eggs from hatching broilers. Such broilers as a rule are all sorts and sizes.

Some farmers are so busy listening for a horse trading opportunity to knock at their front gate that they can not hear the rooster crow about a bigger one in the back yard.

The milk producing function is to a large extent under the control of the nervous system. Any influence that disturbs the quiet or normal condition of the animal will have its effect upon the quality of the milk.

Over-exercise toughens the flesh of even a young fowl. A good breast is half the race for a valuable table bird. A hen bagging down behind is very unattractive as a carcass. The attempt to properly fatten poultry while on a free range, is to throw away time, money and good eating.

MAKING GOOD START IN HOG BUSINESS



First Prize Yorkshire Sow.

The hog is more an individual than a machine, more perhaps than the average farmer who raises hogs simply because they seem to be one of the farm's many equipments, realizes.

Hogs can be, with common sense attention to its environment, feed and other necessary attentions, produced and marketed as quickly as a crop of grain, and added to this the fact that a grain crop makes an income only once a year and there is no reason why hogs cannot bring in money twice in the year, and all the more should a hog's needs and individual taste be catered to.

A pure bred boar costing \$25 to \$50 and a small herd of grade sows are all that is required for a very decent start in the hog business, but to get out with profit an abundance of feed that the hogs can harvest should be provided before the hogs are bought or bred.

In the selection of the male hog it should be borne in mind that he will be apt to stamp his outward form and appearance on the offspring.

The internal structure and all the result of its action will be determined for the most part by the female parent. This is not only theory, but a well-known law of breeding.

Therefore, success in hog raising depends largely on the selection and treatment of the male. It matters less how good the sows may be than is imagined unless careful selection in the males is looked to.

The boar should be of fine external form for this is the result of a superior internal organism. Width between the fore legs and large heart girth just behind them denotes a large, active heart and lungs, the very foundation of an animal.

Straight, strong, clean limbs, with hoofs erect, denote a good, solid frame work. Smooth, mellow skin covered with soft, silky hair denotes the healthy liver and an absence of internal fever.

TIMELY NOTES OF THE POULTRY YARD

Caponizing Should Be Done in Fall, So Birds Will Secure Highest Prices.

(By C. S. MILLER.)

This is the best time for caponizing, for the reason that the cockerels are the right age and weight, and will arrive in market during January, February and March, when the demand is greatest and prices are highest.

The drone hen has no more use in the poultry yard than the robber cow has in the dairy herd. Cut them both out and save feed.

The only way to detect the robber cow is by the Babcock test, and to spot the drone hen is by the trap nest.

Fowls that are dry-picked present a much better appearance than those that are scalded.

Do not deceive yourself with the belief that you can successfully raise poultry without admitting plenty of sunshine to the poultry yard and the houses.

Every poultry yard should be so constructed that it can be moved without much difficulty. This is often necessary when a disease strikes the flock.

While grass is necessary to a fowl's proper condition, it is not fair to expect a hen to live on grass alone.

Geese will make a pretty fair living if they have plenty of grass, although a handful of grain every day, even during the summer months, will do them all the more good.

Fowls do not thrive during the winter unless they have some green feed. The natural food of domestic fowls is that which they pick up on range, and if suddenly deprived of it, both as to green vegetable matter, and meat in the form of bugs and worms, the evil effect is quickly seen.

Stagnant water will make young chicks ill about as quickly as any other bad thing that may be introduced into their systems.

Spade up a part of the poultry yard and sow it to some quick growing legume, confining the fowls in the other part; when the crop is well started, change the fowls over to it and plow up the other side. Do it now.

Excellent for Table.

With a strawberry bed, a few berry bushes, and some plum and apple trees the table can be constantly supplied with a variety of desserts easily and quickly prepared.

STERILIZED SOIL FOR THE FLOWERS

Destroys All Vegetable and Animal Life, Keeping Out Weeds and Worms.

Few persons are aware that the soil used by florists for filling window boxes and flower pots is sterilized. This is not done to kill the germs, but to destroy all vegetable and animal life in the soil, so that the weeds will not be springing up along with the flowers, and worms eating their way through the wooden boxes.

The sterilizing plant consists of a large bin, with steam pipes running through it about four apart. Along these pipes there are holes every few inches.

The soil, which is sod, plowed up and left to decay for a year, is dumped in. Then the steam is turned on for half an hour. At the end of that time the process is completed.

"It's simple enough," said a greenhouse man, "but one thing has to be avoided. If the soil is heated too much it becomes useless. Some of the elements are destroyed by excessive heat."—E. V. B.

EASY METHOD FOR KILLING GOPHERS

Piece of Parsnip, Baited With Strychnine, Will Prove Quite Effectual.

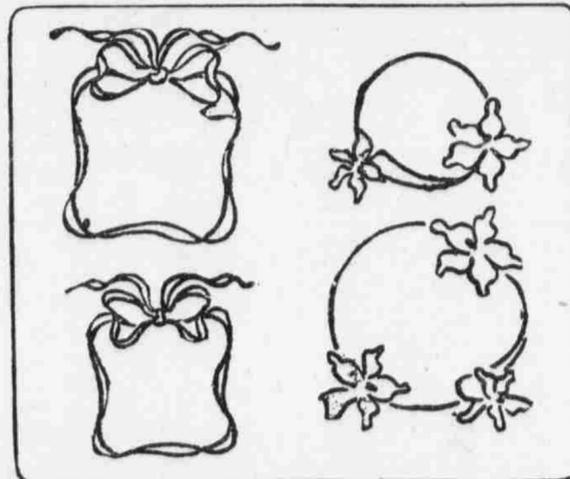
(By JACKSON TAYLOR.)

Whenever I find fresh dirt thrown out by a gopher I uncover the hole and take a piece of parsnip about one inch long, cut a circular piece out of one end, scrape some of the parsnip up in the bottom, then mix as much strychnine with it as can be taken up on the point of a large penknife, put the circular piece back and the bait is ready.

I then put the bait in the hole, pushing it back a foot or more, and leave the hole open. Now Mr. Gopher will always come out and stop up the hole, for he does not like the light; the parsnip is a great temptation to him, and he eats it, stops the hole, and seals his grave.

Sometimes there may be the second gopher in the run, but not often. I have never failed to get the gopher, and I think it tends to keep others off, for I have been troubled but little since using this plan.

Pretty Designs to Be Embroidered



Every bride-to-be likes to have her underwear marked distinctively. These little violet and bowknot wreaths can easily be traced over the newspaper with a sharp implement after impression paper has been placed between the newspaper and the fabric.